

Welcome

to the Missouri State Capitol

The Missouri State Capitol is a Roman Renaissance–style building and was completed in 1918. Situated on a high bluff overlooking the wide Missouri River, the building houses the Legislative and the Executive branches. Two corridors lead to the rotunda, which is 68 feet in diameter. The hallways host a museum displaying the history, artifacts and resources of the Show-Me State. Missouri's heritage is portrayed in the artwork lining the galleries and hallway, and in the statues and fountains throughout the landscaped grounds.



The Missouri State Capitol - A Self-Guided Tour

FIRST FLOOR

STOP A - State Seal

The Great Seal of Missouri was designed in 1822 by Judge Robert Wells. The emblem brings together significant symbols reflecting Missouri's past, present and future. For example, to the left of the eagle is a crescent, which represents Missouri's potential for growth. The Latin verse near the bottom of the seal is the state's motto, which translates to: Let the Welfare of the People be the Supreme Law. The Roman numerals for 1820 indicate the year Missouri began operating as a state; the large star surrounded by 23 smaller stars signifies Missouri's 1821 status as the 24th state.

STOP B - State Museum, History Hall

In 1919, the General Assembly designated this exhibit gallery as the "Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall." Now generally referred to as the "history hall," this gallery has exhibits depicting Missouri's past.

STOP C - State Museum, Resources Hall

First designated as the "Resources Museum" in 1921, this gallery was joined with the "Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall" in 1923 to form the Missouri State Museum. The corridor displays Missouri's natural resources on the south wall, the state's human resources on the north wall, and in the center is the story of how the two have intertwined.

SECOND FLOOR

STOP D - Works of Art

This second floor has 41 lunettes (half-moon-shaped paintings) that illustrate Missouri's resources and history. Most of these paintings were installed between 1920 and 1922.

THIRD FLOOR

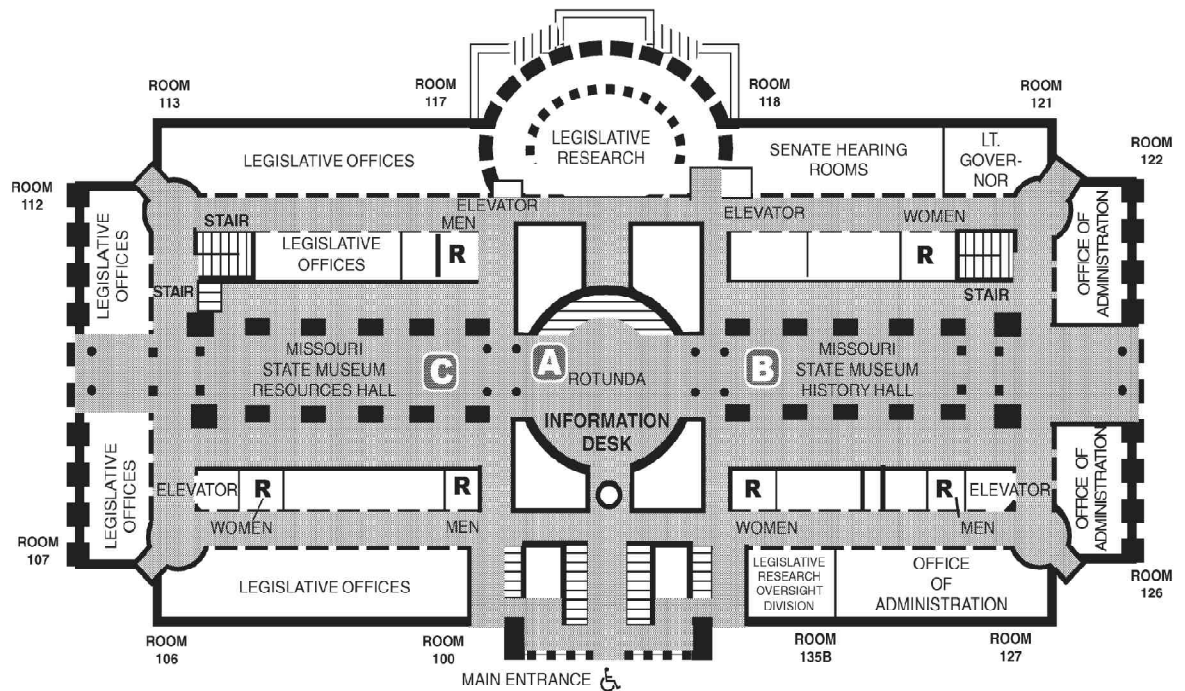
STOP E - Hall of Famous Missourians

The third floor rotunda contains a growing collection of bronze busts of famous Missourians. These men and women have made outstanding contributions in such fields as entertainment, science, literature, art, the military and business. The newest inductee as of 2006 is Jack Buck, the renowned sports announcer for the St. Louis Cardinals baseball games and other prestigious sporting events.

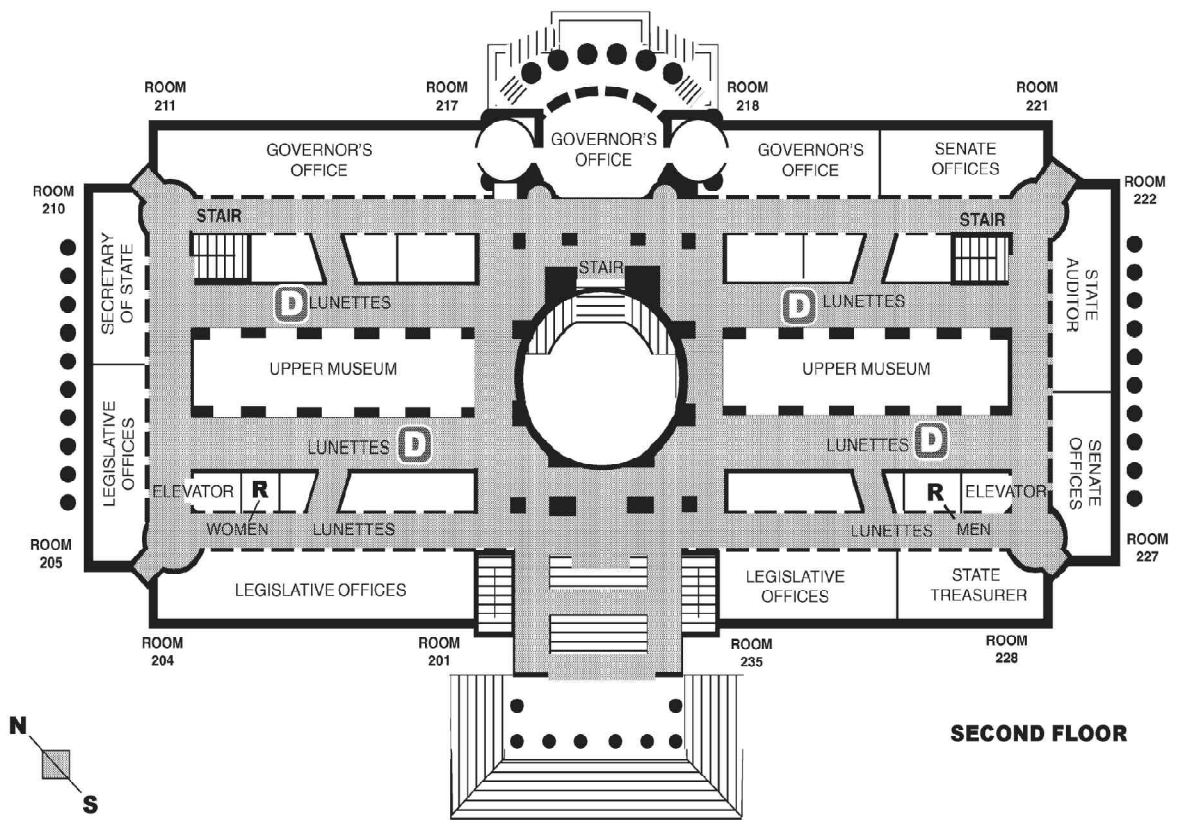
STOP F - House Lounge

In 1935, Missouri-born artist Thomas Hart Benton was commissioned to paint a mural in the Capitol's House Lounge. Eighteen months later, Benton unveiled his realistic interpretation of Missouri's social history, the most famous mural in the Capitol. His Capitol work was the subject of much criticism at the time he painted the murals, because they were deemed *too* truthful, with such depictions as a man being hanged and a woman changing the diaper of a nude baby.

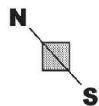
CAPITOL FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

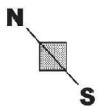
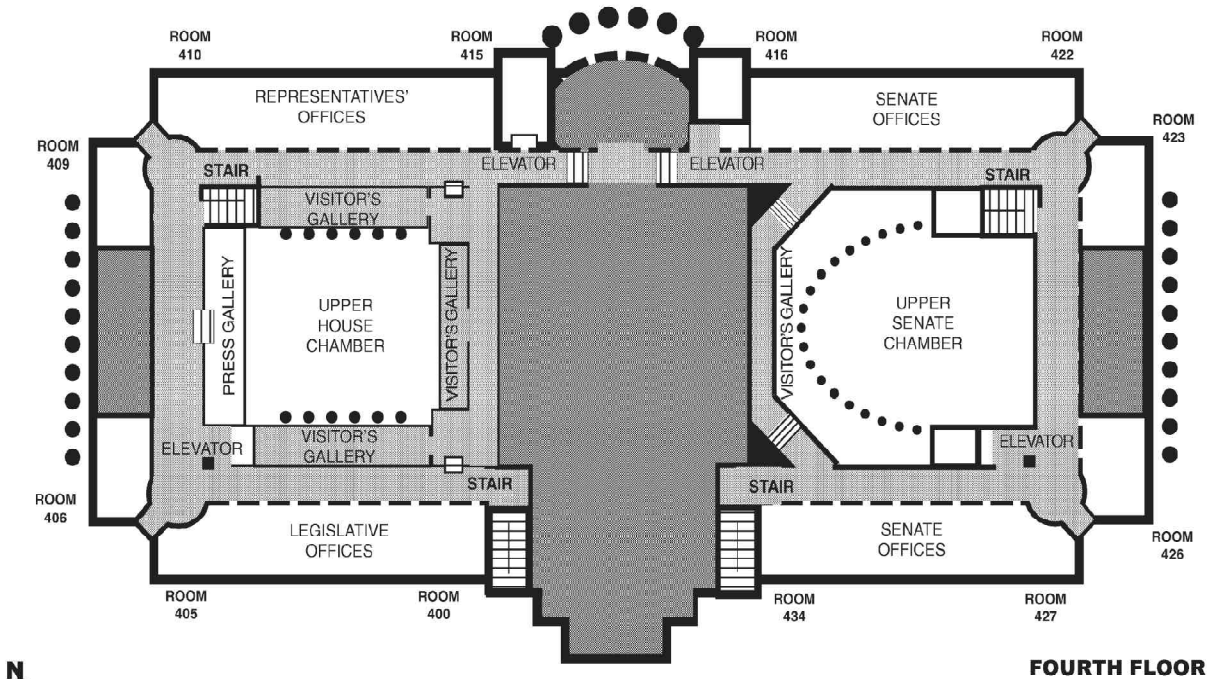
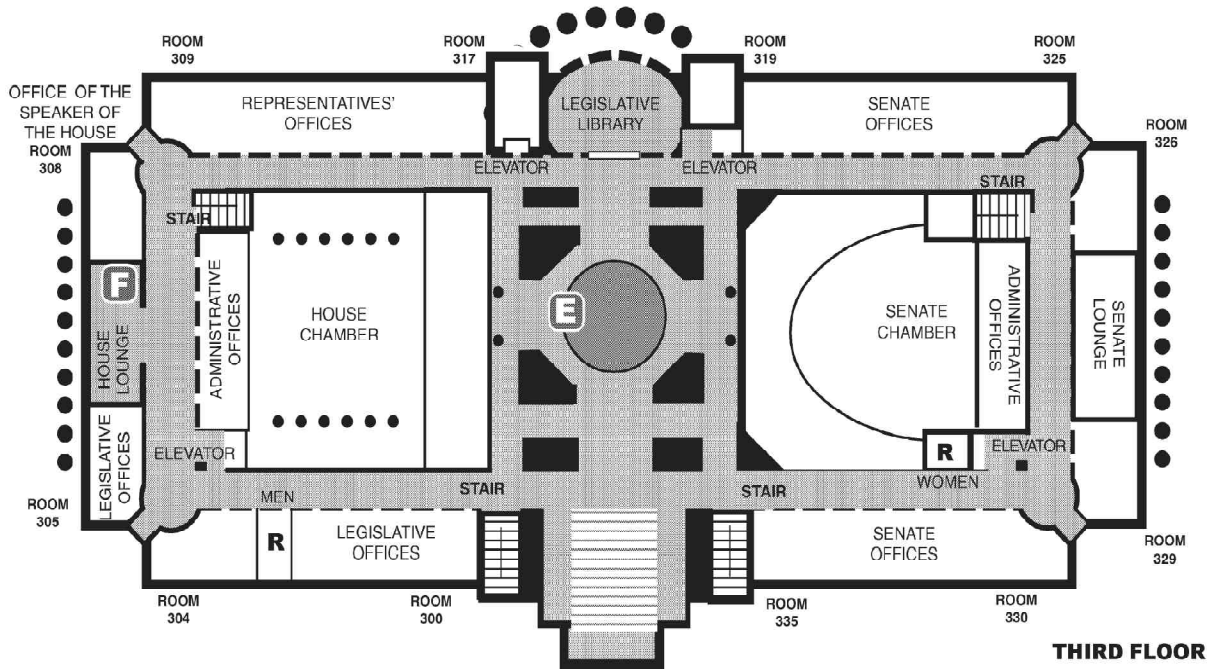


R - rest rooms

▤ - stairways

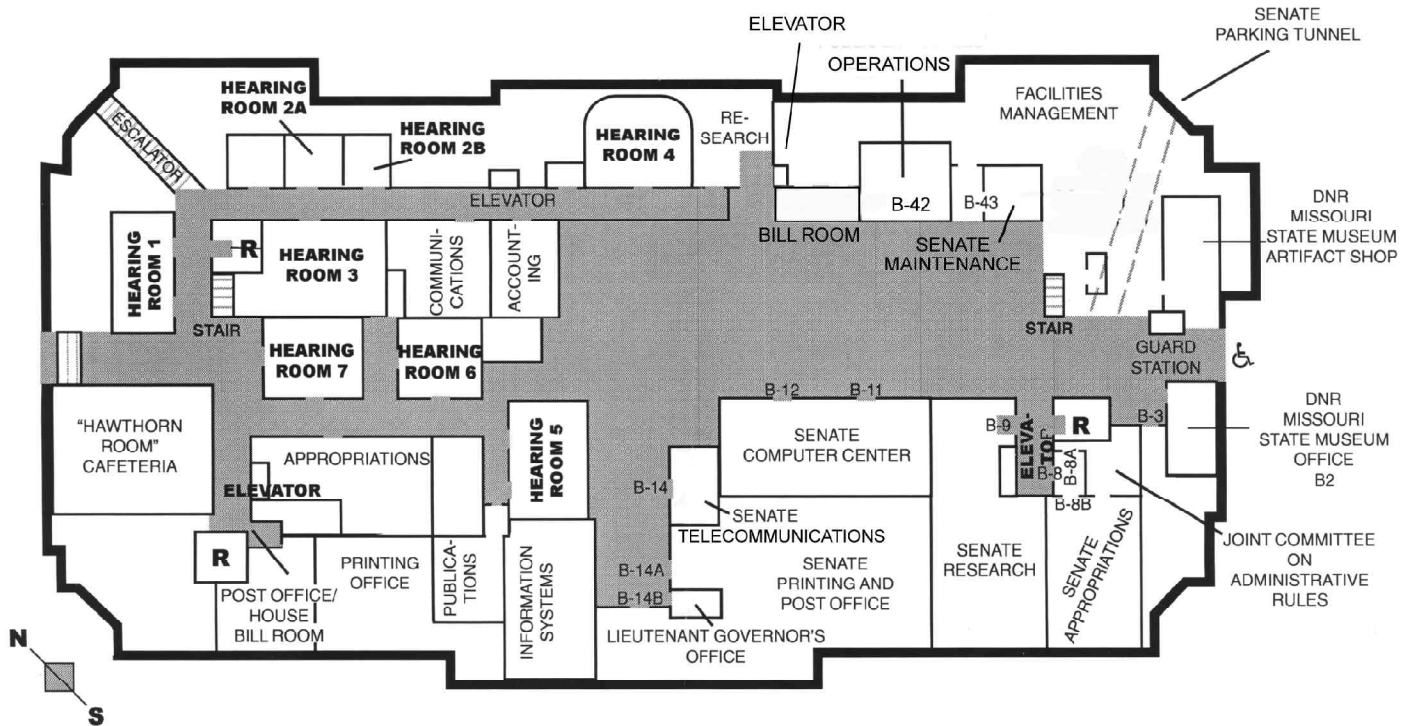
■ - corridors

♿ - handicapped accessible entrances



CAPITOL BASEMENT

- handicapped accessible entrances **R** - restrooms



The State Capitol and the Missouri State Museum are open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily, except on New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Tours, which are provided by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, are offered free of charge from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The building is also open Sundays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday tours are self-guided. Reservations for group tours can be made by calling (573) 751-2854.

The Lohman Building visitor center and the Rozier Gallery in the Union Hotel are open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. daily, except on New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Rozier Gallery is closed on Mondays. Admission is free. The Jefferson Landing State Historic Site is operated by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is closed the month of December. To arrange tours for the Lohman Building or the Union Hotel, call (573) 751-2854.

